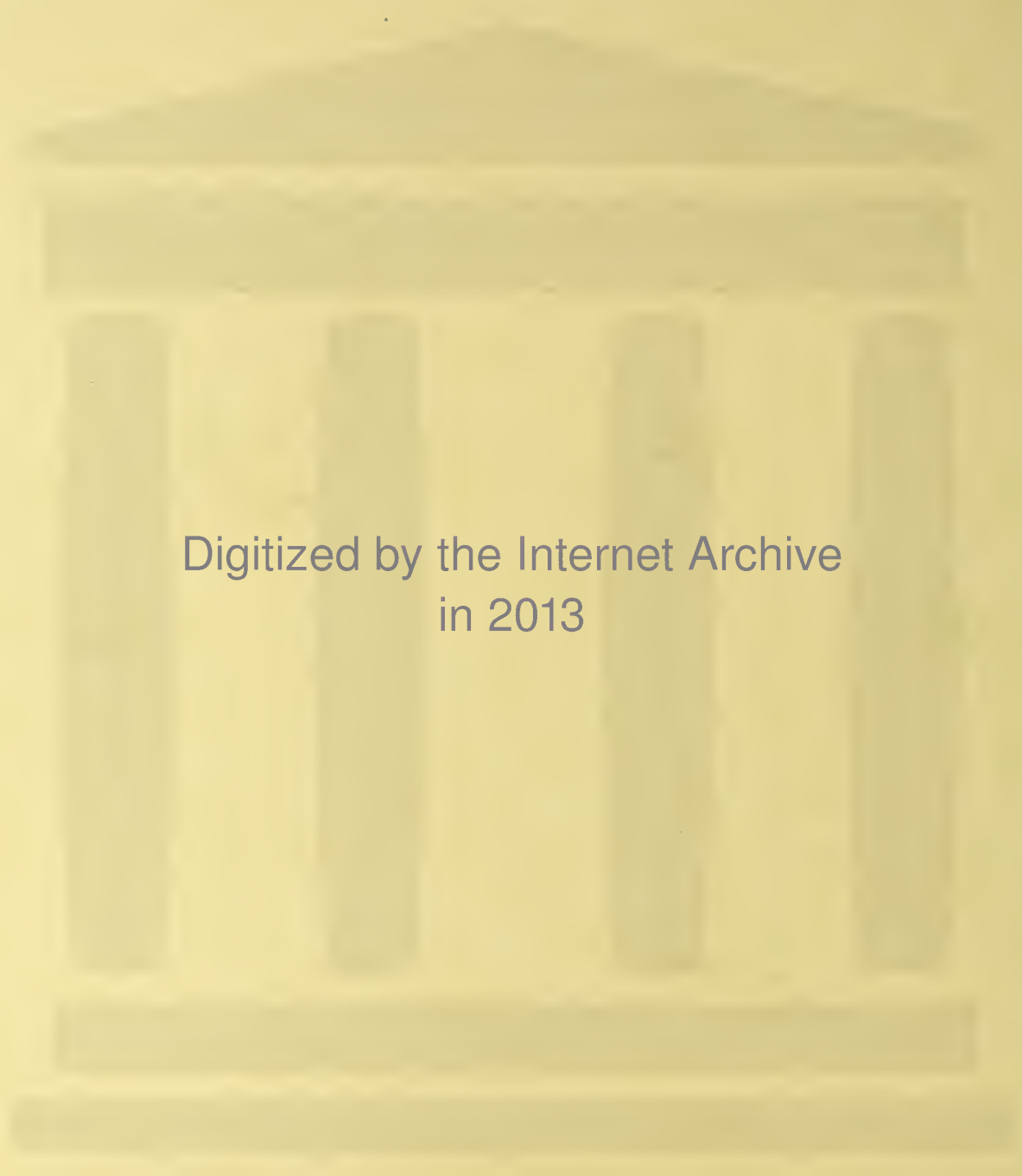


ACCEPTANCE

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Abraham Lincoln's Political Career through 1860

Acceptance of Nomination

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

LINCOLN'S FIRST SPEECH

AFTER HIS NOMINATION

(To the Committee, Springfield, Ill., May 19, 1860.)

"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee: I tender to you, and through you, to the Republican National Convention, and all the people represented in it, my profoundest thanks for the high honor done me, which you now formally announce. Deeply and even painfully sensible of the great responsibility which I could wish had fallen upon some one of the far more eminent men and experienced statesmen whose distinguished names were before the Convention, I shall, by your leave, consider more fully the resolutions of the Convention denominated the platform; and, without necessary and unreasonable delay, respond to you, Mr. Chairman, in writing, not doubting that the platform will be found satisfactory and the nomination gratefully accepted. And now I will not longer defer the pleasure of taking you, and each of you, by the hand."

Mr. Lincoln's Little Speech.

Mr. Lincoln was quite apt to prepare himself in advance for these little events, and when he did he generally followed his manuscript carefully. Mr. Hitt was present when the representatives of the national convention, headed by George Ashmun, called on Mr. Lincoln to inform him of his nomination. Mr. Lincoln did not quite like to see a man reporting him, especially when he was only making a speech of a few minutes, and when, after a little general talk, Mr. Ashmun stepped forward and began to address Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Hitt got behind one of the spectators, and proceeded to take Mr. Lincoln's response verbatim. After the affair was over Mr. Lincoln came up to Mr. Hitt and asked: "Did you hear all that I said." "Every word," was the response. "Well," said Mr. Lincoln, "I was afraid you would not be able to hear, so I wrote what I was going to say beforehand," and he handed Mr. Hitt the speech in writing. Mr. Hitt and Henry J. Raymond compared the written speech and the stenographic report, and there was not the variation of a word.—"F. P. P." in Chicago Times.

